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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. On the initiative of the Association for Cultural Contacts between Italy and the USSR, a press conference was held on 26 September 1952 in the Centro di Comunita at 6 Via di Porta Pinciana in Rome by the delegation of Italian educators who had recently returned from their visit to schools and educational institutions in Russia. Their trip which took place in September 1952 was made under the auspices of the Italia-USSR Association.
2. The press conference was attended by less than ten Italian and foreign reporters. Others present included Concetto Marchesi, Giuseppe Ferti, Stello Loza, Alcide Malagugini, the former national counselor, Joice Lussu, Giuseppe Lombardo-Radice, Angela Zucconi, director for the Social Assistance School, Professor Bonelli (fnu) representing the Catholic teachers, Professor Saba, editor of the periodical Rinnovamento della Scuola, and other intellectuals, totaling about 120 persons.
3. Professor Francesco Flora, a Fellow in Italian Literature at the Bocconi University of Milan, a member of the faculty of the Lincei, and head of the delegation gave a complete report concerning the visit of the group in the USSR.
4. The delegation stopped at three cities; Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad, where they visited various elementary and intermediate schools, museums, galleries, libraries, training schools and other cultural and educational institutions. Flora began the conference by saying that upon his arrival in Russia he immediately had the opportunity of admiring some Siberian soldiers on the train, who were busily reading modern novels. Flora's first impression of Moscow was that of finding a grandiose city in the process of continual development. Flora also emphasized the love of Soviet citizens for literature which he noted in Moscow and in other cities, the notable diffusion and amplitude of the libraries where he had seen the works of such Italian writers as Dante, Petrarca, Leonardo, Bruno Giordano, Tasso and so forth, being read.
5. While visiting several schools in Moscow, Flora observed the freedom of initiative of each instructor in elaborating scholastic programs. Flora

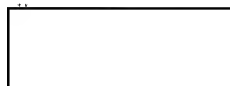
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said that illiteracy, which amounted to 76 per cent of the Russian population under the Czars, has practically all disappeared. Visiting a kolkhoz in Ukraine, the group saw a ten year curriculum school which is part of that kolkhoz, and also saw in the same area a modern and ornate teachers' school.

6. Flora said that the teaching methods in the Soviet Union achieve the perfect balance between theory and practice, and the Italian delegation observed this in visiting chemistry laboratories, botanic and zoologic centers and astronomy schools. In this connection they frequently saw children in the homes of pioneers constructing airplane models which were self-propelled and guided. Everywhere, Flora concluded, the delegation found an immense security and a deep love for science and for peace.
7. In response to questions put by the reporters, Flora declared that he considered his trip to the Soviet Union as the greatest event of his life, not only because of the tremendous facts noted, but also because of the spirit of equality between men, a spirit created by the Bolshevik regime. Flora said he had noted the importance of this equality ever since the time it was declared in the "Rencontres Internationales" (International Meetings) in Geneva that "all that can be common between men, must be common". This declaration has already been published in the review, Rassegna d'Italia, which was edited by Flora after the war and which published for the first time in Italy Zhandov's monograph on Alexandrov's History of Philosophy. The facts that greatly attracted Flora's attention in the specific field of studies were the continuous relationship between theory and practice in teaching methods and the disappearance of illiteracy. In this connection he noted that the recreation rooms in the kolkhozes and in all the homes of peasants were richly furnished with books.
8. When asked what in his opinion were the most evident differences between the Soviet and Italian cultural organizations, Flora stated that the answer to this question warranted study, and a confrontation of varied facts and data. He could only say that the Soviet Society gives everyone the possibility of following his own vocation; that it is a society, thus, where neither intermediaries between the citizen and the State nor "indirect forms of social life" exist.
9. Professor Arnaud (fnu) of Bologna, who is a retired education inspector, stated that his visit to the Soviet Union crowned his fifty years' experience in education studies and activities.
10. Professor Mario Alghiero Manacorda spoke briefly on the freedom of religion in the USSR and explained that peasants, particularly, showed the visitors religious pictures and statues in their homes.
11. Flora and Manacorda had to admit that the teaching of philosophy in the Soviet Union is inspired by the political and social necessities of the controlling Regime.
12. The only identified members of the Italian delegation are those listed above. At a conference held in a Rome section of the Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI; Italian Communist Party) early in October 1952, Manacorda stated that in connection with his recent visit to the USSR that the

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Italian delegation reached Moscow on 2 September in two separate groups; one went directly from Italy; the other from Vienna. The delegates who were regularly authorized to visit Iron Curtain countries were part of the delegation going directly from Italy. Flora was among this latter group. All the other members of the delegation, including Manacorda, who arrived in Russia from Vienna, lacked the regular visa.

13. The above appears to explain the unusual conduct of the Leftist press, which in announcing the arrival of a delegation of Italian educators in Moscow, omitted publishing their names. Such procedure is being adopted by practically all the Italian delegations that visit Iron Curtain countries. For example, the newspaper Il Giornale D'Italia in its issue of 16 November 1952 had a column entitled "Here and There" which reflected a Polish announcement of the arrival in Warsaw of an Italian delegation of Partigiani della Pace (Peace Partisans) whose names were not given "to avoid reprisals and persecutions by the police". A member of the delegation who was invited to speak over the radio was thus introduced as "an Italian sympathizer whose name cannot be given because his family has remained in Italy".

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